

**Texas Department of State Health Services Seeks Volunteers to Provide Outreach Services to Individuals with Disabilities Displaced by Hurricane Katrina.**

Hundreds of thousands of victims of Hurricane Katrina have found their way to many of the major cities in Texas. Perhaps thousands of these are individuals with a mental illness, co-occurring disorder, or other disability. Many were formerly homeless, and now all of them are homeless.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is finding that many individuals who were relocated to one of the large disaster recovery centers in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio have subsequently left these shelters and are on the streets. The task of providing outreach and engagement to this population is overwhelming the Texas homeless service system.

DSHS has put out a call for help to experienced homeless outreach workers and medical staff who would be willing to volunteer for up to two weeks of their time in one of the major relocation sites. DSHS plans to set up as many as 20 three-person teams across the state.

**Transportation to Texas, as well as food and lodging expenses, will be covered.**

Help is needed now!

Assistance will be needed well into the future. Responses for future assistance are also encouraged.

Individuals interested in applying to volunteer may request an application at: [homelessoutreach@ahpnet.com](mailto:homelessoutreach@ahpnet.com) or may apply online at [www.pathprogram.samhsa.gov](http://www.pathprogram.samhsa.gov).

For further information please call Richard Becker at 518-475-9146 Ext. 260 (New York) or Lynn Aronson at 805-452-9584 (California).